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**From:** Molly Block  
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The Source from The House Committee on Natural Resources

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Christmas is coming early for the beleaguered residents of San Juan, Kane and Garfield counties in Utah. Reports, though unofficial, indicate that President Trump will shrink Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Escalante while simultaneously taking action to protect bona fide antiquities. True to form, radical Left-wing groups are hysterically claiming that he has no authority to do so. Of course, the argument is absurd on its face: there is no reason, legal or otherwise, that a unilateral presidential action should bind every successor in perpetuity.

However, lest there be any lingering doubt, just look to the historical record. President Taft reduced his own monument by 89% and Woodrow Wilson shrunk President Roosevelt's by 50%. There are sixteen similar examples. Case closed.

Native Americans being told that tribes are co-managing Bears Ears under President Obama's proclamation are being sold a fake bill of goods. The Bears Ears Commission created at the time has no legal decision-making power of any kind; absolutely nothing under the executive order requires federal land managers to pay the slightest bit of attention to it. As NPR put it, "Under the original Obama proclamation, tribes [have] only an advisory role."

Indeed, only legislation, not executive action, can truly result in co-management that is

more than mere symbolism. Challenge accepted. Stay tuned.

**Wednesday, December 6**

10:00 AM

1324 Longworth House Office Building

Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans

[Legislative Hearing on Bill Funding Fish Recovery Programs](#)

**Thursday, December 7**

10:00 AM

1324 Longworth House Office Building

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

[Oversight Hearing, "Transforming the Department of the Interior for the 21st Section](#)

2:00 PM

1324 Longworth House Office Building

Subcommittee on Federal Lands

[Legislative Hearing on 4 Bills](#)

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